



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting

REVISED

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Via Zoom

At 6:00 PM

Open Meeting

1. Approve Minutes from December 18, 2023
2. Citizen Speak Time
3. Discussion/Business/Action items:
 - Michael Bolognino One Day Liquor License
 - Property Tax Relief for Seniors – Sheila Thunfors
 - Discussion of Short-Term Rental Impact fees – Andy Potter
 - Review Current Rooms Rate Tax – Andy Potter
 - Review Annual Entertainment License for TurnPark – Joel Hotchkiss & Jared Gelormino
4. Select Board Speak
5. Adjourn

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Jan 2, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: SB Regular Mtg

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88358080081?pwd=whpApm06jysV6rH-9GRnUkEdlwsIKw.I3AllEiPyn0paJ2v>

Passcode: 088148 Webinar ID: 883 5808 0081

Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



Town of West Stockbridge One Day Liquor License Application

(\$25.00 applicable fee)

Name of Responsible Party: Michael Bolognino
Address: 11 Albany Rd
Contact Number: 206-499-0779
Organization holding event: Fancy Feast Supper Club
Location of Event: 11 Albany Rd
Date and Time of Event: 2/17/24 7pm
Type of Event: Supper Club (ticketed public event)

Non-Profit Organization

ALL ALCOHOL

Circle One (above)

Other than Non-profit

BEER & WINE ONLY

Has permission been received from property owner to hold this event? y

Have servers had training in Alcohol service? y

Do you have a Liquor Liability Insurance Policy? We will be covered under Fancy Feast's policy

I, the undersigned, understand and agree to the restriction and responsibilities of holding a One Day Alcohol License and certify that I am not prohibited from holding such license. I agree that the Town of West Stockbridge is in no way responsible for the actions of the applicant.

[Signature]
Applicant's Signature & Date

12/1/23
Local Licensing Authority Signature & Date

Parking Plan: Event @ 11 Albany Rd. Parking confirmed at Soma Catering.



Parking in February



Inbox x



Michael Bolognino <michael.bolognino@gmail.com>
to Loretta

Thu, Nov 9, 11:35 AM



Loretta,

Hello and happy fall to you. I'm writing to request that we rent out your parking lot on 17 February, 2024. It would be for a nighttime event at our house -- so most likely from 7-11 pm or so.

Would that be possible? Please let me know. MB

PS: I know we also asked about use of the kitchen, but our chef has found another solution so no need to proceed with that ask.



Loretta Tenuta

to me

Thu, Nov 9, 11:39 AM



Hi Michael,

Thanks for reaching out, yes that would be fine.

Can you just send me a reminder that week but its not a problem

All the best

Loretta

We (June Biggs, Louise Faggioni, Frank Landsberger, Jill Pixley, Rocky Tonini, Sheila Thunfors and Sharon Vidal) formed our discussion group to **pursue avenues of relief for seniors struggling to pay their property taxes**. After much exploring, we decided to pursue avenues that already exist in the Commonwealth as specified in the Mass General Laws Chapter 59 Section 5.

The Commonwealth of MA has several clauses under Chapter 59 Section 5 which towns can adopt to provide property tax relief to seniors who are eligible. Eligible seniors can receive an exemption reducing their total property tax. Portions of those tax exemptions are reimbursed by the Commonwealth per the number of exemptions in each town and are based on the cherry sheet amounts established by state legislature each year.

Clause 41C

On 5/17/2004 West Stockbridge adopted Clause 41C which the state legislature passed in 1986 establishing the income eligibility level for a property tax exemption at \$20,000 or below for a single property owner and \$30,000 or below for a married couple property owner. West Stockbridge chose the 65-year-old age eligibility option under Clause 41C but did not choose the yearly CPI increase for the income eligibility level. Hence \$20,000 and \$30,000 remain the current eligibility cut off levels for income. We find these eligibility levels woefully low and inadequate. To think that a single senior citizen who has an income level of, say \$23,000 a year, would not be eligible for a tax exemption is shameful. We should be doing better for our senior neighbors and fellow citizens.

To give some perspective on the inadequacy of these eligibility income levels, \$20,000 in 1986 is equivalent to \$56,000 in 2023 and \$30,000 in 1986 is equivalent to \$84,000 in 2023.

Had we passed the CPI option back in 2004, we might be at a more reasonable eligibility income level than the \$20,000 and \$30,000 we currently must use. Had we passed 41C with the CPI back in 1986, the income eligibility level would certainly be at a more reasonable amount today. Unfortunately, the CPI's cannot be applied retroactively.

By vote of the town legislative body we have the option to add the CPI under Clause 41C going forward and to increase the exemption amount from its current \$750 to \$1,000.

Clause 41C1/2

Around 2006 the state legislature enacted Clause 41C1/2. This clause uses the senior "circuit breaker" income level as the income eligibility level (2023 \$69,000), allowing the eligibility level to keep up with rising inflation (the DOR updates the "circuit breaker" income level each year). Clause 41C1/2 also gives the towns a range from which to choose the amount of the exemption (from 5% to 20% of the average assessed value). It also allows the town to opt for the 65-year-old age eligibility instead of 70 (West Stockbridge has opted for age 65 for Clause 41C). Clause 41 C1/2 does not have asset limits like Clause 41C (single's asset level no higher than \$40,000 and married's \$50,000).

There is terminology in the various sources we have used that is a bit confusing. There are references to "by vote of the legislative body of the town" (is that the town meeting?), "the legislative body may vote to adjust the following eligibility factors" (again town meeting?) and "41C1/2 which is accepted by

voter approval of a ballot questions at a regular municipal election”. We are ready to sign petitions but first must know whether we need a warrant for a town meeting or a ballot question or both. Ronni Barrett, Town Clerk, confirmed that 10 signatures are needed for warrant petitions. She is checking but believes that the warrant is first passed at a town meeting and then is voted on by ballot the following week at the election.

Veteran Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F

The document from the Assessors’ office, 2023 Property Tax Exemptions and Deferrals Available to Qualifying West Stockbridge Residents, does not include all the Veteran clauses. Clauses 22B, 22D and 22F are missing. We asked Mary Stodden, Assessors’ Clerk, if there was a reason these clauses were missing from the list, but with the re-assessments she does not have time to look into this. Our understanding of these clauses under Chapter 59, Section 5 is that they are all available to any qualifying Veteran and that no town vote is necessary to adopt any of them. We recommend that the Assessors make known that all the 22 clauses are available to qualifying Veterans.

State Reimbursement for Property Tax Exemptions

Each of the Veteran clauses has a specific formula to determine the reimbursement amount from the state.

The exemptions the towns grant under Clauses 41C and 41C1/2 are partially reimbursed by the state on a per exemption basis based on the amount the state legislature appropriates each year. Those exemptions are based on the cherry sheet.

Elaine Markham, Town Accountant, was unable to tell us how much the town does receive for the exemptions. We gathered as much information as possible to begin to extrapolate and estimate those amounts. In 2023 there were 8 Veterans and 6 seniors who qualified for property tax exemptions. The amount in the 2023 cherry sheet under the category Exemp:VBS and Elderly is \$3,963. It appears that the average reimbursement per exemption was \$283+/- . This is just a ballpark figure.

Number of Seniors Who Might Be Eligible for 41C1/2

We gathered as much demographic data as we could find. We could not find data that would tell us how many seniors over 65 would qualify for the Circuit Breaker income level. With extrapolation and estimation, we thought no more than about 60 senior property tax payers might meet the requirements. After the state reimbursement, the town’s responsibility for the exemptions would likely be less than \$42,000.

Proposals for Warrants/Ballot Question

We will have petitions for two warrants. One will be to adopt 41C1/2 establishing the age eligibility at 65 or older and the tax exemption at \$1,000. If the town does not pass 41C1/2, there will be a warrant to adjust the exemption amount under 41C to \$1,000. The second warrant can be tabled, if 41C1/2 passes.

We are not attorneys nor municipal tax experts. Based on the information and data we have gathered we believe the information provided is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

ATTACHMENTS

Mass General Law Chapter 59 Section 5 Clauses 41C and 41C1/2

Division of Local Services Property Tax Guide for Seniors

Division of Local Services Property Tax Guide for Veterans

2023 Property Tax Exemptions and Deferrals Available to Qualifying West Stockbridge Residents

Exemption Form West Stockbridge

41C1/2 Application Form

2023 Preliminary Mutual Cherry Sheet Estimates

Chapter 7 Tax Exemption Module 3.1 overview

Chapter 7 Tax Exemption Module 3.3.5 Clause 41C1/2 Eligibility Factors

Chapter 7 Tax Exemption Module *(have as a pdf for reference, but no need to print it)*

Income Data

Income Distribution

West Stockbridge Age Distribution

West Stockbridge Quick Facts

2023 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS AND DEFERRALS AVAILABLE TO QUALIFYING WEST STOCKBRIDGE RESIDENTS

ELDERLY

41C CLAUSE	Age 65 by July 1	Exemption Amount:	\$750.00
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Income:	Single Person	\$20,000
	Married Persons (Joint Ownership)	\$30,000

***Note:** Includes income from all sources: Wages, Social Security, Pensions, Interest, Dividends, Rents, etc.

VETERANS

V1 Clause 22	10% War time service connected disability	\$ 400.00
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V2 Clause 22A	Loss of use-service connected	\$ 425.00
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V3 Clause 22C	100% disability with adapted housing	\$1500.00
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V3 Clause 22E	100% Service connected disability	\$1000.00
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***Note: Disability certificates must be provided from Veterans Administration**

BLIND

Clause 37A	Registered with Division of the Blind	\$500.00
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***Note:** Certificate must be provided yearly
July 1 qualification date



TAXPAYER'S GUIDE TO LOCAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

SENIORS

Clauses 41, 41B, 41C, 41C½

The Department of Revenue (DOR) has created this fact sheet to provide general information about local property tax exemptions for seniors. **It is not designed to address all questions or issues and does not change any provision of the Massachusetts General Laws. To find out about the specific eligibility and application requirements in your city or town, you must contact your local board of assessors.** The DOR cannot determine your eligibility or give you legal advice. Property taxes are assessed and collected by cities and towns, not by the DOR. Under state law, only your board of assessors, as the local tax administrator, can decide whether you qualify for an exemption. If you disagree with its decision, you may appeal to the state Appellate Tax Board (or county commissioners if your county's government has not been abolished).

INTRODUCTION

Cities and towns may give property tax exemptions to some individuals as defined by state law. An exemption discharges a taxpayer from the legal obligation to pay all or a part of the tax assessed for the fiscal year. Exemptions are found in various clauses of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5 ([M.G.L. c. 59, § 5](#)).

Clauses 41, 41B, 41C or 41C½ provide exemptions to seniors who meet specific ownership, residency, income and asset requirements. Seniors 70 or older may, alternatively, qualify for exemption under Clauses 17, 17C, 17C½ or 17D, which provide a reduced benefit, but have less strict eligibility requirements. Clause 41 is the basic exemption for seniors. Over the years, as income and asset values rose, the Legislature enacted alternative exemptions (Clauses 41B, 41C and 41C½), and options within those exemptions, that cities and towns may adopt.

Clause 41 applies unless the legislative body of your city or town has voted, subject to local charter, to accept another clause. The most recently accepted clause establishes eligibility rules in your city or town.

EXEMPTION AMOUNT	Clauses 41, 41B, 41C	\$500
	Clause 41C½	5% of the average assessed valuation of residential property in your city or town.
	The Clause 41C exemption may be increased up to \$1,000, by vote of the legislative body of your city or town.	
	The Clause 41C½ exemption may be increased up to 20% of the average assessed valuation of residential property in your city or town, by vote of the legislative body of your city or town.	

For more information, please contact your local assessors.

APPLICATIONS	You must file an application for each fiscal year with the assessors in the city or town where your property is located. The application is due on April 1, or three months after the actual tax bills are mailed, whichever is later. <i>Filing on time is required. By law, the assessors may not waive this filing deadline, nor act on a late application, for any reason.</i> Filing an application does not entitle you to delay your tax payment.
DOCUMENTATION	You must provide the assessors with whatever information is reasonably required to establish your eligibility. This information may include, but is not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Birth certificates. 2. Evidence of ownership, domicile and occupancy. 3. Income tax returns, bank and other asset account statements.
NUMBER OF EXEMPTIONS	With limited exceptions, you may only receive one exemption under M.G.L. c. 59, § 5 for each fiscal year. If you qualify for more than one, you will receive the one that provides the greatest benefit. You may receive an exemption and if qualified, defer all or a part of the balance of the reduced tax.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	You must satisfy tests relating to age, domicile, ownership, occupancy, annual income and assets. You must meet <u>all</u> eligibility requirements as of July 1 of the tax year. (<i>The fiscal year of cities and towns begins July 1 and ends the following June 30.</i>) If you do not meet all requirements as of July 1, you <u>cannot</u> receive all or any portion of the exemption for that tax year. If you own the property with someone who is not your spouse, for example, your children, siblings or other relatives, then each of the other co-owners must also satisfy the annual income and asset tests.
AGE	You must be 70 or older. For Clauses 41C and 41C½, the eligible age may be reduced to 65 or older, by vote of the legislative body of your city or town.

OWNERSHIP AND DOMICILE	<p>You must own and occupy the property as your domicile. Your domicile is where your principal and legal home is located, your family, social, civic and economic life is centered and you plan to return whenever you are away. You may have more than one residence, but only one domicile.</p> <p>For Clauses 41B, 41C and 41C½, you must also have had a domicile in Massachusetts for 10 consecutive years before the tax year begins, and have owned and occupied the property, or any other property in Massachusetts, for any 5 years. The 10 year continuous domicile requirement for Clause 41C½ may be reduced to 5 years, by vote of the legislative body of your city or town.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under Clauses 41, 41B and 41C, your ownership interest must be worth at least \$4,000. You may own this interest solely, as a joint owner or as a tenant in common. If you own the property with someone who is not your spouse, your exemption will be equal to the same percentage of the exemption as your ownership interest in the property, for example, 50% if you are a joint owner with one other person. 2. If you hold a life estate in the domicile, you are the owner. 3. If your domicile is held in a trust, you are the owner only if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. You are a trustee or co-trustee of that trust, and b. You have a sufficient beneficial interest in the domicile.
INCOME LIMITS	<p>Your income (gross receipts) for the previous calendar year cannot exceed a specified limit. Each clause has a different limit.</p> <p>Gross receipts means income from <u>all</u> sources and is broader than taxable income for federal or state income tax purposes. Ordinary business expenses and losses are deducted but not personal or family expenses. If you received income from social security or certain public pensions systems in the prior calendar year, the assessors will deduct a “minimum social security” allowance, which is set by the DOR each year.</p> <p>If you are single, your allowable gross receipts can range from \$6,000 (Clause 41) to the limit for the “circuit breaker” state income tax credit for single non-head of household filers (Clause 41C½). If you are married, the limit is based on the combined gross receipts of you and your spouse and ranges from \$7,000 (Clause 41) to the limit for the “circuit breaker” state income tax credit for single non-head of household filers (Clause 41C½).</p> <p>For Clauses 41, 41B and 41C, the gross receipts limit may increase annually by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) determined by the DOR each year. For Clause 41C½, the gross receipts limit may be applied to the combined income of you and your spouse or other household members. These adjustments apply only if the legislative body of your city or town has voted, subject to local charter, to accept the local option.</p>

ASSET LIMITS	<p>Your assets (whole estate) on July 1 cannot exceed a specified limit. Each clause has a different limit.</p> <p>Whole estate means <u>all</u> assets to which you have legal title and access as sole, joint owner or trustee that contribute to your total worth. The value of the applicant's cemetery plots, registered motor vehicles, wearing apparel and household furniture and effects located in the domicile is not included in the calculation of the applicant's whole estate. In addition, the value of the domicile is generally not included, but depending on the clause, portions generating income or over a certain number of units may be included.</p> <p>If you are single, your allowable whole estate can range from \$17,000 (Clause 41) to \$40,000 (Clause 41C). If you are married, the limit is based on the combined whole estates of you and your spouse and ranges from \$20,000 (Clause 41) to \$55,000 (Clause 41C). There is no asset limit under Clause 41C½.</p> <p>For Clauses 41, 41B and 41C, the whole estate limit may increase annually by the percentage increase in the CPI determined by the DOR each year. This increase applies only if the legislative body of your city or town has voted, subject to local charter, to accept this local option.</p>
EXEMPTION CREDIT	<p>If the assessors decide you are eligible and grant an exemption, the amount granted is credited toward and reduces the tax outstanding on your domicile for the fiscal year. You will not receive a refund unless you have already paid the entire year's tax, as reduced by the exemption, at the time the exemption is granted.</p>
SALE OF DOMICILE	<p>If you are selling your domicile, you should make your attorney aware that you receive a property tax exemption that reduces the tax owed for the fiscal year. The sale is a private financial transaction and as a party, you are responsible for seeing that the exemption is properly credited at the closing, through escrow or other arrangements, when the parties make adjustments for local property taxes or charges. Your city or town is not responsible for seeing that you and the buyer allocate the property taxes so you get the benefit of the exemption.</p>

APPEALS	
Appellate Tax Board	<p>The Appellate Tax Board (ATB) is an independent, quasi-judicial state board that hears taxpayer appeals from local assessors' decisions on property tax abatements and exemptions. If county government has not been abolished, appeals may be made to the county commissioners instead, but assessors may and usually do transfer those appeals to the ATB. ATB decisions may be appealed to the Appeals Court and, ultimately, to the Supreme Judicial Court.</p> <p>You can obtain the ATB's guide to the property tax appeal process from its website (www.mass.gov/atb) or by calling 617-727-3100.</p>
Appeal of Action of Assessors	<p>You have three months from the date of the assessors' decision on your exemption application to appeal to the ATB. This includes decisions to deny any exemption or to grant an exemption that provides a lesser benefit. If the application was deemed denied, your appeal must be filed within three months of the deemed denied date. As a general rule, if the real estate tax on your domicile is over \$5,000, you must also have paid all preliminary and actual tax installments on time for the ATB to hear your appeal.</p> <p>The assessors may grant the exemption or higher exemption in final settlement of your application during the three month period for filing an appeal. In that case, you do not have to have filed an appeal with the ATB. However, if a settlement is not reached and an exemption not granted during that period, you must have filed your appeal by the deadline. If not, the ATB cannot hear the appeal.</p>

ASSESSMENT AND EXEMPTION CALENDAR	
January 1	Property Tax Assessment Date for Next Fiscal Year
July 1	Fiscal Year Begins Real Estate Exemption Eligibility Date for Fiscal Year
October - December	Actual Tax Bills Mailed for Fiscal Year
November 1 (Semi-annual Payment Communities) February 1 (Quarterly Payment Communities)	1 st Actual Tax Installment Payment Due ¹

¹ Contact your assessors. The due date depends on the payment system used in your community and the date actual tax bills were mailed for fiscal year.

April 1, or 3 Calendar Months from Mailing of Actual Tax Bill if later	Personal Exemption Applications to Assessors Due ²
3 Calendar Months from Filing of Application (or Date of Written Extension Given by Taxpayer)	Assessors Grant or Deny Exemption Application Deemed Denied if Assessors Have Not Acted
3 Calendar Months from Assessors' Action on Application, or Deemed Denial of Application	Appeal to ATB Due

² Some assessors may accept applications before actual tax bills are mailed. If not, or your application is not approved, you must apply by this deadline to claim the exemption.

TAXPAYER'S GUIDE TO LOCAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

VETERANS

Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F

The Department of Revenue (DOR) has created this fact sheet to provide general information about local property tax exemptions for veterans. **It is not designed to address all questions or issues and does not change any provision of the Massachusetts General Laws. To find out about the specific eligibility and application requirements in your city or town, you must contact your local board of assessors.** The DOR cannot determine your eligibility or give you legal advice. Property taxes are assessed and collected by cities and towns, not by the DOR. Under state law, only your board of assessors, as the local tax administrator, can decide whether you qualify for an exemption. If you disagree with its decision, you may appeal to the state Appellate Tax Board (or county commissioners if your county's government has not been abolished).

INTRODUCTION

Cities and towns may give property tax exemptions to some individuals as defined by state law. An exemption discharges the taxpayer from the legal obligation to pay all or a portion of the tax assessed for the fiscal year. Exemptions are found in various clauses of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5 ([M.G.L. c. 59, § 5](#)).

Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F provide exemptions to some veterans, their spouses who own the domicile and their surviving spouses, and some surviving parents and spouses of active duty military personnel who died during or due to military service.

APPLICATIONS	You must file an application for each fiscal year with the assessors in the city or town where your property is located. The application is due on April 1, or three months after the actual tax bills are mailed, whichever is later. <i>Filing on time is required. By law, the assessors may not waive this filing deadline, nor act on a late application, for any reason.</i> Filing an application does not entitle you to delay your tax payment.
DOCUMENTATION	You must provide the assessors with whatever information is reasonably required to establish eligibility. This information may include, but is not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence of residency, ownership, domicile and occupancy. 2. Certification of a service-connected disability or death from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or branch of U.S. military service from which discharged or in which served.

For more information, please contact your local assessors.

NUMBER OF EXEMPTIONS	With limited exceptions, you may only receive one exemption under M.G.L. c. 59, § 5 for each fiscal year. If you qualify for more than one, you will receive the one that provides the greatest benefit. You may receive an exemption and if qualified, defer all or a part of the balance of the reduced tax.
VETERAN	Veterans are individuals who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for certain time periods during peace or wartime eras and were discharged from military service. Their last discharge or release must have been under other than dishonorable conditions.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	You must satisfy tests relating to residency, domicile, ownership and service-connected disability or awards. You must meet <u>all</u> eligibility requirements as of July 1 of the tax year. (<i>The fiscal year of cities and towns begins July 1 and ends the following June 30.</i>) If you do not meet all requirements as of July 1, you <u>cannot</u> receive all or any portion of the exemption for that tax year.
RESIDENCY	Veterans must have (1) been domiciled in Massachusetts for at least 6 consecutive months before entering military service, <u>or</u> (2) lived in Massachusetts for at least 5 consecutive years before the tax year begins (or at least 1 consecutive year before the tax year begins, if the legislative body of your city or town has voted, subject to local charter, to accept this local option).
DOMICILE	You must occupy the property as your domicile. If you are a spouse of a veteran, you and the veteran must occupy the property as your domicile. Your domicile is where your principal and legal home is located, your family, social, civic and economic life is centered and you plan to return whenever you are away. You may have more than one residence, but only one domicile.
OWNERSHIP	You must own the property. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your ownership interest must be worth at least an amount ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000, depending on the exemption. You may own this interest solely, as a joint owner or as a tenant in common. 2. If you hold a life estate in the domicile, you are the owner. 3. If your domicile is held in a trust, you are the owner only if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. You are a trustee or co-trustee of that trust, and b. You have a sufficient beneficial interest in the domicile.

EXEMPTION CREDIT	If the assessors decide you are eligible and grant an exemption, the amount granted is credited toward and reduces the tax assessed on your domicile for that fiscal year. You will only receive a refund if the entire tax for the year has already been paid at the time the exemption is granted.
SALE OF DOMICILE	If you are selling your domicile, you should make your attorney aware that you receive a property tax exemption that reduces the tax owed for the fiscal year. The sale is a private financial transaction and as a party, you are responsible for seeing that the exemption is properly credited at the closing, through escrow or other arrangements, when the parties make adjustments for local property taxes or charges. Your city or town is not responsible for seeing that you and the buyer allocate the property taxes so you get the benefit of the exemption.
WHO IS ELIGIBLE AND EXEMPTION AMOUNTS	
Clause 22 - \$400	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veterans with a service-connected disability of 10% or more. 2. Veterans awarded the Purple Heart. 3. Surviving parents of military personnel who died in military service (Gold Star Parents). 4. Spouses (where the domicile is owned by the veteran's spouse), and surviving spouses (who have never remarried), of veterans entitled to exemption under Clause 22. 5. Surviving spouses (who have never remarried) of World War I veterans as long as their assets (whole worth), less any mortgage on the property, do not exceed \$20,000.
Clause 22A - \$750	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veterans who (1) suffered in the line of duty the loss or permanent loss of use of one foot or one hand or one eye, or (2) received the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Air Force Cross. 2. Spouses (where veteran's spouse owns the domicile) or surviving spouses of veterans entitled to exemption under Clause 22A.
Clause 22B - \$1,250	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veterans who suffered in the line of duty the loss or permanent loss of use of both feet, both hands or both eyes. 2. Spouses (where veteran's spouse owns the domicile) or surviving spouses of veterans entitled to exemption under Clause 22B.
Clause 22C - \$1,500	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veterans who suffered total disability in the line of duty and received assistance in acquiring "specially adapted housing" which they own and occupy as their domicile. 2. Spouses (where veteran's spouse owns the domicile) or surviving spouses of veterans entitled to exemption under Clause 22C.

Clause 22D – Full	<p>Surviving spouses (who have never remarried) of (1) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) who went missing in action during active duty and are presumed to have died, or (2) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) or veterans who died as a proximate result of an injuries sustained or illnesses contracted during active duty service.</p> <p>A surviving spouse must have lived in Massachusetts for at least 5 consecutive years before the tax year begins (or lived in Massachusetts for at least 1 consecutive year before the tax year begins, if the legislative body of your city or town has voted to accept this local option). If not, the deceased military or guard member or veteran had to have been domiciled in Massachusetts for at least 6 consecutive months before entering the service.</p>
Clause 22E - \$1,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veterans who have a service connected disability of 100%. 2. Spouses (where veteran's spouse owns the domicile) or surviving spouses of veterans entitled to exemption under Clause 22E.
Clause 22F – Full	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veterans who are paraplegics, or have a 100% disability for service-connected blindness. 2. Spouses (where veteran's spouse owns the domicile) or surviving spouses of veterans entitled to exemption under Clause 22F.
<p>Clause 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E and 22F exemptions are prorated for a domicile greater than a single-family house. The exemption is the same percentage of the tax as the part of the house occupied by the veteran, or if deceased, the surviving spouse, for example, 50% if one unit of a two-family house is occupied by the veteran or surviving spouse.</p>	

APPEALS	
Appellate Tax Board	<p>The Appellate Tax Board (ATB) is an independent, quasi-judicial state board that hears taxpayer appeals from local assessors' decisions on property tax abatements and exemptions. If county government has not been abolished, appeals may be made to the county commissioners instead, but assessors may and usually do transfer those appeals to the ATB. ATB decisions may be appealed to the Appeals Court and, ultimately, to the Supreme Judicial Court.</p> <p>You can obtain the ATB's guide to the property tax appeal process from its website (www.mass.gov/atb) or by calling 617-727-3100.</p>

Appeal of Action of Assessors	<p>You have three months from the date of the assessors' decision on your exemption application to appeal to the ATB. This includes decisions to deny any exemption or to grant an exemption that provides a lesser benefit. If the application was deemed denied, your appeal must be filed within three months of the deemed denied date. As a general rule, if the real estate tax on your domicile is over \$5,000, you must also have paid all preliminary and actual tax installments on time for the ATB to hear your appeal.</p> <p>The assessors may grant the exemption or higher exemption in final settlement of your application during the three month period for filing an appeal. In that case, you do not have to have filed an appeal with the ATB. However, if a settlement is not reached and an exemption not granted during that period, you must have filed your appeal by the deadline. If not, the ATB cannot hear the appeal.</p>
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ASSESSMENT AND EXEMPTION CALENDAR	
January 1	Property Tax Assessment Date for Next Fiscal Year
July 1	Fiscal Year Begins Real Estate Exemption Eligibility Date for Fiscal Year
October - December	Actual Tax Bills Mailed for Fiscal Year
November 1 (Semi-annual Payment Communities) February 1 (Quarterly Payment Communities)	1 st Actual Tax Installment Payment Due ¹
April 1, or 3 Calendar Months from Mailing of Actual Tax Bill if later	Personal Exemption Applications to Assessors Due ²

¹ Contact your assessors. The due date depends on the payment system used in your community and the date actual tax bills were mailed for fiscal year.

² Some assessors may accept applications before actual tax bills are mailed. If not, or your application is not approved, you must apply by this deadline to claim the exemption.

3 Calendar Months from Filing of Application (or Date of Written Extension Given by Taxpayer)	Assessors Grant or Deny Exemption Application Deemed Denied if Assessors Have Not Acted
3 Calendar Months from Assessors' Action on Application, or Deemed Denial of Application	Appeal to ATB Due

Chpt 59, Section 5 Clauses 41C, 41CX2

cities and towns which accept the provisions of this clause, the provisions of clause Forty-first shall not be applicable; provided, however, that any amount of money annually appropriated by the commonwealth for the purpose of reimbursing cities and towns for taxes abated under this clause and clause Forty-first shall be distributed as provided in said clause Forty-first.

Forty-first C, Real property, to the amount of four thousand dollars of taxable valuation or the sum of five hundred dollars, whichever would amount in an exemption of the greater amount of taxes due, of a person who has reached his seventieth birthday prior to the fiscal year for which an exemption is sought and occupied by said person as his domicile, or of a person who owns the same jointly with his spouse, either of whom has reached his seventieth birthday prior to the fiscal year for which an exemption is sought and occupied by them as their domicile, or for a person who has reached his seventieth birthday prior to the fiscal year for which an exemption is sought who owns the same jointly or as a tenant in common with a person not his spouse and occupied by him as his domicile; provided: (A) that such person (1) has been domiciled in the commonwealth for the preceding ten years, (2) has so owned and occupied such real property or other real property in the commonwealth for five

years, or (3) is a surviving spouse who inherits such real property and has occupied such real property in the commonwealth five years and who otherwise qualified under this clause; (B) that such person had, in the preceding year gross receipts from all sources of less than thirteen thousand dollars, or if married, combined gross receipts with his spouse of less than fifteen thousand dollars, provided, however, that in computing the gross receipts of an applicant under this clause ordinary business expenses and losses may be deducted, but not personal or family expenses; and provided, further, that there shall be deducted from the total amount received by the applicant under the federal social security or railroad retirement and from any annuity, pension, or retirement plan established for employees of the United States government, the government of the commonwealth, or the government of any city, town, county, or special district, included in such gross receipts, an amount equivalent to the minimum payment then payable under said federal social security law, as determined by the commissioner of revenue, to a retired worker seventy years of age or over, if the applicant is unmarried, or to a retired worker and spouse, both of whom are seventy years of age or over, if the applicant is married; and (C) that such person had a whole estate, real and personal, not in excess of twenty-eight thousand dollars, or if married, not in excess of thirty thousand dollars, provided that real property occupied as his

domicile shall not be included in computing the whole estate except for any portion of said property which produces income and exceeds two dwelling units. A city, by vote of its council and approval of its mayor, or a town, by vote of town meeting, may adjust the following factors contained in these provisions by: 1) reducing the requisite age of eligibility to any person age 65 years or older; 2) increasing either or both of the amounts contained in the first sentence of this clause, by not more than 100 per cent; 3) increasing the amounts contained in subclause (B) of said first sentence whenever they appear in said subclause from \$13,000 to not more than \$20,000 and from \$15,000 dollars to not more than \$30,000; 4) increasing the amounts contained in subclause (C) of said first sentence whenever they appear in said subclause from \$28,000 dollars to not more than \$40,000 and from \$30,000 to not more than \$55,000; and 5) by further excluding from the determination of whole estate up to 3 dwelling units. In the case of real property owned by a person jointly or as a tenant in common with a person not his spouse, the amount of his exemption under this clause shall be that proportion of four thousand dollars valuation or the sum of five hundred dollars, whichever would result in an exemption of the greater amount of taxes due, which the amount of his interest in such property bears to the whole tax due, provided: (A) that no exemption shall be granted to any joint tenant or

tenant in common unless the gross receipts from all sources whatsoever of each joint tenant or tenant in common is less than thirteen thousand dollars or, if married, the combined gross receipts from all sources whatsoever, of each joint tenant or tenant in common and his spouse is less than fifteen thousand dollars, provided, however, that in computing the gross receipts of an applicant under this clause ordinary business expenses and losses may be deducted, but not personal or family expenses; and provided, further, that there shall be deducted from the total amount received by the applicant under the federal social security or railroad retirement and from an annuity, pension, or retirement plan established for employees of the United States government, the government of the commonwealth, or the government of any city, town, county, or special district, included in such receipts, an amount equivalent to the minimum payment then payable under said federal social security law, as determined by the commissioner of revenue, to a retired worker seventy years of age or over, if the applicant is unmarried, or to a retired worker and spouse, both of whom are seventy years of age or over, if the applicant is married; and (B) that the combined whole estate, real and personal, of each joint tenant or tenant in common is less than twenty-eight thousand dollars or, if married, the combined whole estate, real and personal of each joint tenant or tenant in common and his spouse does not exceed thirty thousand dollars, provided

that real property occupied as their domicile shall not be included in computing the whole estate except for any portion of said property which produces income and exceeds two dwelling units. No proportion of the exemption shall be denied to any applicant otherwise qualified for the reason that another joint tenant or tenant in common receives a proportion of the total exemption. Household furnishings and property already exempt under the clauses Twelfth, Twentieth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-fifth shall not be included in computing the whole estate for purposes of this section. Where a portion of the real property occupied as a domicile of an applicant under this clause is located within a municipality other than the municipality in which the applicant is domiciled, and where the value of said property, or the taxes, assessed by the municipality in which such applicant is domiciled would result in his receiving less than the maximum exemption provided by this clause, that part of the property of such applicant within such other municipality shall be exempt to a value, or to an amount of tax, sufficient to grant the applicant the total maximum exemption provided by the clause. This clause shall take effect in any city or town upon its acceptance by such city or town for fiscal years commencing on or after July first, nineteen hundred and eighty-six, or for fiscal years commencing on or after such later July first as the city or town may elect. In those cities and towns which accept the provisions of this

clause, the provisions of clause Forty-first and Forty-first B shall not be applicable; provided, however, that any amount of money annually appropriated by the commonwealth for the purpose of reimbursing cities and towns for taxes abated under this clause, clause Forty-first and clause Forty-first B shall be distributed as provided in said clause Forty-first.

Forty-first C1/2, Real property, of an amount equal to 5 per cent of the average assessed value of all Class one parcels within the city or town of the principal residence of a taxpayer as used by the taxpayer for income tax purposes of a person who has reached his seventieth birthday before the beginning of the fiscal year for which an exemption is sought and occupied by the person as his domicile, or of a person who owns the same jointly with his spouse, either of whom has reached his seventieth birthday before the beginning of the fiscal year for which an exemption is sought and occupied by them as their domicile, or of a person who has reached his seventieth birthday before the beginning of the fiscal year for which an exemption is sought who owns the same jointly or as a tenant in common with a person not his spouse and occupied by him as his domicile if: (A) the person: (1) has been domiciled in the commonwealth for the preceding 10 years; (2) has owned and occupied the real property or other real property in the commonwealth for 5 years, or (3) is a surviving spouse

who inherits the real property and has occupied this real property in the commonwealth for 5 years and who otherwise qualified under this clause; and (B) the taxpayer's gross receipts from all sources do not exceed the dollar amount calculated to be the income limits on a taxpayer's total income for a single individual who is not the head of a household for the purposes of paragraph (3) of subsection (k) of section 6 of chapter 62 for the most recently completed state tax year, as determined by the commissioner of revenue.

A city or town, by vote of its legislative body, subject to its charter, may adjust the exemption contained in this clause by: (1) increasing the amount of the exemption to as much as 20 per cent of the average assessed value of all Class one parcels within the city or town; (2) reducing the requisite age of eligibility to any person age 65 years or older; and (3) reducing the residency requirements to not less than 5 years; and (4) utilizing income limits on a household basis rather than on a single applicant basis for real estate tax exemptions.

This clause shall take effect in any city or town that votes to accept its terms at the next regularly scheduled municipal election for any fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 2006. The question appearing on the official ballot shall be in the following form:

"Shall section ____ of the acts of ____ granting real estate property tax reductions to qualifying senior citizens be accepted?"

If a majority of the votes cast in answer to this question is in the affirmative, the clause shall take effect, but not otherwise.

In those cities and towns that accept this clause, clauses Forty-first, Forty-first B and Forty-first C shall not apply but any amount of money annually appropriated by the commonwealth for the purpose of reimbursing cities and towns for taxes abated under this clause, clause Forty-first, clause Forty-first B and clause Forty-first C shall be distributed as provided in said clause Forty-first.

Forty-first D, The amounts of the gross receipts and whole estate, real and personal, as set forth in clauses Forty-first, Forty-first B and Forty-first C, shall be increased annually by an amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for such year. The department of revenue shall annually inform each city or town that accepts this clause of the amount of this increase. This clause shall take effect in a city or town upon its acceptance by such city or town. Acceptance of this clause by a city or town shall not increase its reimbursement by the commonwealth under this section.

Name of City or Town

Date Received

Application No.

Parcel Id.

Senior Exemption Clause 41C1/2

(Seniors 65 and Older)

FISCAL YEAR _____ APPLICATION FOR STATUTORY EXEMPTION

General Laws Chapter 59, § 5

THIS APPLICATION IS NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION

(See General Laws Chapter 59, § 60)

Return to: **Board of Assessors**

Must be filed with assessors on or before December 15 or 3 months after actual (not preliminary) tax bills are mailed for fiscal year if later.

Exception: Seniors must file by the earlier abatement application deadline if local option Clause 41C1/2 accepted. See Assessors.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all sections that apply. If you qualify under more than one category, you will receive the Exemption that provides the greatest amount of assistance. Please print or type.

A. IDENTIFICATION. Complete this section fully.

Name of Applicant _____

Telephone Number _____ Marital Status _____

Legal Residence (Domicile on July 1, _____) Mailing Address (If different) _____

No. _____ Street _____ City/Town _____ Zip Code _____

Location of Property: _____ No. of Dwelling Units: 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ Other _____

Did you own the property on July 1, _____? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, were you: Sole Owner ☐ Co-owner with Spouse Only ☐ Co-owner with Others ☐

Was the property subject to a trust as of July 1, _____? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please attach trust instrument including all schedules.

Have you been granted any exemption in any other city or town (MA or other) for this year? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, name of city or town _____ Amount exempted \$ _____

DISPOSITION OF APPLICATION (ASSESSORS' USE ONLY)

Ownership ☐

GRANTED ☐

Assessed Tax \$ _____

Occupancy ☐

DENIED ☐

Exempted Tax \$ _____

Status ☐

DEEMED DENIED ☐

Adjusted Tax \$ _____

Income ☐

BILL # _____

Assets ☐

Board of Assessors

Date Voted/Deemed Denied _____

Certificate No. _____

Date Cert./Notice Sent _____

Exemption: Clause _____

Date: _____

FILING THIS FORM DOES NOT STAY THE COLLECTION OF YOUR TAXES

THIS FORM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

B. DATE OF BIRTH AND PREVIOUS ADDRESSES (if applicable).

☐ **SENIOR 70 OR OLDER (65 or older by local option – See Assessors)** Date of Birth _____
If first year of application, attach copy of birth certificate.

Have you owned and occupied the property as your domicile for at least 11 years? Yes ☐ No ☐
(6 years if local option under Clause 41C1/2 adopted – See Assessors)

*If no, list the other properties you owned and/or occupied during the past 11 years (6 years
if local option under Clause 41C1/2 adopted – See Assessors.)*

Address

Dates

Owned

Occupied

_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continue list on attachment in same format as necessary

GO ON TO SECTION C

C. GROSS RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES IN PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. Complete this section if you are a senior.
Copies of your federal and state tax income returns, and other documentation, may be requested to verify your income.

	Applicant & Spouse
Retirement Benefits (Social Security, Railroad, Federal, MA & Political Subdivisions).....	
Other Pensions and Retirement Allowances.....	
Wages, Salaries and other Compensation.....	
Net Profits from Business, Profession or Property Rental.....	
Interest and Dividends.....	
Other Receipts (Capital Gains, Public Assistance, etc.).....	
TOTALS	

D. SIGNATURE. Sign here to complete the application.

This application has been prepared or examined by me. Under the pains and penalties of perjury, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this return and all accompanying documents and statements are true, correct and complete.

Signature

Date

If signed by agent, attach copy of written authorization to sign on behalf of taxpayer.

17	22	37	41	42&43
Assessors' Use only				
Date Received				
Application No.				
Parcel Id.				

WEST STOCKBRIDGE

Name of City or Town

SENIOR – SURVIVING SPOUSE OR MINOR – VETERAN – BLIND
FISCAL YEAR _____ APPLICATION FOR STATUTORY EXEMPTION
General Laws Chapter 59, § 5

THIS APPLICATION IS NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION
(See General Laws Chapter 59, § 60)

Return to: Board of Assessors

Must be filed with assessors on or before April 1, or 3 months after actual (not preliminary) tax bills are mailed for fiscal year if later.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all sections that apply. If you qualify under more than one category, you will receive the exemption that provides the greatest amount of assistance. Please print or type.

A. IDENTIFICATION. Complete this section fully.

Name of Applicant _____			Marital Status _____		
Telephone Number _____			Mailing Address (If different) _____		
Legal Residence (Domicile) on July 1, _____			_____		
No. _____	Street _____	City/Town _____	Zip Code _____	_____	
Location of Property: _____				No. of Dwelling Units: 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Did you own the property on July 1, _____? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>					
If yes, were you: Sole Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner with Spouse Only <input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner with Others <input type="checkbox"/>					
Was the property subject to a trust as of July 1, _____? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>					
If yes, please attach trust instrument including all schedules.					
Have you been granted any exemption in any other city or town (MA or other) for this year? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>					
If yes, name of city or town _____ Amount exempted \$ _____					

DISPOSITION OF APPLICATION (ASSESSORS' USE ONLY)

Ownership <input type="checkbox"/>	GRANTED <input type="checkbox"/>	Assessed Tax \$ _____
Occupancy <input type="checkbox"/>	DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	Exempted Tax \$ _____
Status <input type="checkbox"/>	DEEMED DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	Adjusted Tax \$ _____
Income <input type="checkbox"/>		
Assets <input type="checkbox"/>		
Board of Assessors		
Date Voted/Deemed Denied _____		
Certificate No. _____		
Date Cert./Notice Sent _____		
Exemption: Clause _____ Date: _____		

FILING THIS FORM DOES NOT STAY THE COLLECTION OF YOUR TAXES

THIS FORM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

D. VALUE OF ALL PROPERTY OWNED ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR. Complete this section if you are a (1) surviving spouse, (2) minor child of a deceased parent, or (3) senior. Documentation may be requested to verify your assets.

Real Estate	Assessed Valuation	Amount Due on Mortgage	Value
Domicile			
Other			
Personal Estate			
Bank Accounts: Name & Address of Bank			
Stocks, Bonds, Securities, etc.: Description & Amount			
Motor Vehicles & Trailers: Year, Make & Model			
Other Non-exempt Personal Property: Kind & Description			
TOTAL			
GO ON TO SECTION E			

E. SIGNATURE. Sign here to complete the application.

This application has been prepared or examined by me. Under the pains and penalties of perjury, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this return and all accompanying documents and statements are true, correct and complete.

Signature

Date

If signed by agent, attach copy of written authorization to sign on behalf of taxpayer.

☐ **SURVIVING SPOUSE**

Deceased Spouse's Name _____

Date of Death _____

Have you remarried? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, date of remarriage _____

☐ **MINOR WITH PARENT DECEASED**

Deceased Parent's Name _____

Date of Death _____

If first year of application, attach a copy of death certificate.

Are you a surviving spouse or a minor child of a firefighter or a police officer killed in the line of duty? Yes ☐ No ☐

IF NO, AND NO OTHER STATUS APPLIES TO YOU, GO ON TO SECTION D

If yes, and this is the first year of application, provide circumstances of death.

GO ON TO SECTION E

☐ **SENIOR 70 OR OLDER (65 or older by local option- See Assessors)** Date of Birth _____

If first year of application, attach copy of birth certificate.

Have you owned and occupied the property as your domicile for at least 11 years? Yes ☐ No ☐
(6 years if local option under Clause 41C½ adopted - See Assessors)

If no, list the other properties you owned and/or occupied during the past 11 years (6 years if local option under Clause 41C½ adopted - See Assessors.)

Address _____

Dates _____

Owned Occupied

☐☐☐☐

Continue list on attachment in same format as necessary.

GO ON TO SECTION C

C. GROSS RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES IN PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. Complete this section if you are a senior.
Copies of your federal and state tax income returns, and other documentation, may be requested to verify your income.

	Applicant & Spouse	Co-owner(s) & Spouse(s)
Retirement Benefits (Social Security, Railroad, Federal, MA & Political Subdivisions)		
Other Pensions and Retirement Allowances		
Wages, Salaries and other Compensation		
Net Profits from Business, Profession or Property Rental		
Interest and Dividends		
Other Receipts (Capital Gains, Public Assistance, etc.)		
TOTALS		

GO ON TO SECTION D

D. VALUE OF ALL PROPERTY OWNED ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR. Complete this section if you are a (1) surviving spouse, (2) minor child of a deceased parent, or (3) senior. Documentation may be requested to verify your assets.

Real Estate	Assessed Valuation	Amount Due on Mortgage	Value
Domicile			
Other			
Personal Estate			
Bank Accounts: Name & Address of Bank			
Stocks, Bonds, Securities, etc.: Description & Amount			
Motor Vehicles & Trailers: Year, Make & Model			
Other Non-exempt Personal Property: Kind & Description			
TOTAL			
GO ON TO SECTION E			

E. SIGNATURE. Sign here to complete the application.

This application has been prepared or examined by me. Under the pains and penalties of perjury, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this return and all accompanying documents and statements are true, correct and complete.

Signature

Date

If signed by agent, attach copy of written authorization to sign on behalf of taxpayer.

TAXPAYER INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS

PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS. You may be eligible to reduce all or a portion of the taxes assessed on your domicile if you meet the qualifications for one of the personal exemptions allowed under Massachusetts law. Qualifications vary, but generally relate to age, ownership, residency, disability, income or assets.

You may be eligible for an exemption if you fall into any of these categories:

- Legally blind person
- Veteran with a service-connected disability
- Surviving spouse of servicemember, national guard member or veteran who died from active duty injury or illness
- Minor child of deceased parent
- Surviving Spouse
- Senior citizen age 70 and older (65 and older by local option)

More detailed information about the qualifications for each exemption may be obtained from your board of assessors.

WHO MAY FILE AN APPLICATION. You may file an application if you meet all qualifications for a personal exemption as of July 1. You may also apply if you are the personal representative of the estate, or trustee under the will, of a person who qualified for a personal exemption on July 1.

WHEN AND WHERE APPLICATION MUST BE FILED. Your application must be filed with the assessors on or before April 1, or 3 months after the actual bills were mailed for the fiscal year, whichever is later. An application is filed when (1) received by the assessors on or before the filing deadline, or (2) mailed by United States mail, first class postage prepaid, to the proper address of the assessors, on or before the filing deadline, as shown by a postmark made by the United States Postal Service. **THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE EXTENDED OR WAIVED BY THE ASSESSORS FOR ANY REASON. IF YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT TIMELY FILED, YOU LOSE ALL RIGHTS TO AN EXEMPTION AND THE ASSESSORS CANNOT BY LAW GRANT YOU ONE.**

PAYMENT OF TAX. Filing an application does not stay the collection of your taxes. In some cases, you must pay all preliminary and actual installments of the tax when due to appeal the assessors' disposition of your application. Failure to pay the tax when due may also subject you to interest charges and collection action. To avoid any loss of rights or additional charges, you should pay the tax as assessed. If an exemption is granted and you have already paid the entire year's tax as exempted, you will receive a refund of any overpayment.

ASSESSORS DISPOSITION. Upon applying for an exemption, you may be required to provide the assessors with further information and supporting documentation to establish your eligibility. The assessors have 3 months from the date your application is filed to act on it unless you agree in writing before that period expires to extend it for a specific time. If the assessors do not act on your application within the original or extended period, it is deemed denied. You will be notified in writing whether an exemption has been granted or denied.

APPEAL. You may appeal the disposition of your application to the Appellate Tax Board, or if applicable, the County Commissioners. The appeal must be filed within 3 months of the date the assessors acted on your application, or the date your application was deemed denied, whichever is applicable. The disposition notice will provide you with further information about the appeal procedure and deadline.

MA Department of Revenue
Division of Local Services
Preliminary Municipal Cherry Sheet Estimates
Data current as of 7/31/2023

[Return to Previous page](#)

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Select a Fiscal Year: 2024 ▾

Select a Municipality: West Stockbridge ▾

[Submit](#)

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FY2024 Preliminary Cherry Sheet Estimates
West Stockbridge

- [Estimated Receipts](#)
- [Estimated Assessments & Charges](#)

PROGRAM	FY2023 Cherry Sheet Estimate	FY2024 Governor's Local Aid Proposal	FY2024 House Budget Proposal	FY2024 Senate Budget Proposal	FY2024 Conference Committee
Education Receipts:					
Chapter 70	0	0	0	0	0
School Transportation	0	0	0	0	0
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	0	0	0	0	0
Smart Growth School Reimbursement	0	0	0	0	0
Offset Receipts:					
School Choice Receiving Tuition	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total, All Education Items:	0	0	0	0	0
General Government:					
Unrestricted Gen Gov't Aid	112,633	114,886	114,435	116,237	116,237
Local Share of Racing Taxes	0	0	0	0	0
Regional Public Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans Benefits	12,423	8,113	8,113	8,113	8,113
Exemp: VBS and Elderly	3,963	2,794	2,780	2,780	2,780
State Owned Land	118,975	134,737	134,737	134,737	134,737
Offset Receipts:					
Public Libraries	4,190	4,298	4,096	4,298	4,298
Sub-Total, All General Government:	252,184	264,828	264,161	266,165	266,165
Total Estimated Receipts:	252,184	264,828	264,161	266,165	266,165

Questions or Assistance Please Email The Municipal Databank at :databank@dor.state.ma.us

3.1 Overview

There are several categories of individuals who may qualify for tax exemptions or deferrals on their domiciles because of their personal status. For each personal exemption, there are specific clauses, or local option clauses, in G.L. c. 59, § 5

Assessment Administration: Law, Procedures and Valuation

Property Tax Exemptions

7 - 7

Rev. 1/23

that establish the exemption amount, eligibility requirements and state reimbursement procedures. Local option clauses are accepted by vote of the municipality's legislative body, except for the senior exemption under Clause 41C½, which is accepted by voter approval of a ballot question at a regular municipal election. Table 2 summarizes the local options for personal exemptions.

Sections 3.2, 3.11, 3.12 and 3.13 explain requirements and terms that apply to these exemptions and deferrals generally. Additional or unique requirements for particular exemptions are discussed in Sections 3.3 to 3.10.

contribute to no more than a total tax rate increase.

3.3.5 Clause 41C½ Eligibility Factor Options

Assessment Administration: Law, Procedures and Valuation

Property Tax Exemptions

7 - 12

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The local option Clause 41C½ exemption for seniors is based on reduction of assessed valuation, no asset limit, and a gross receipts limit tied to the circuit breaker state income tax credit. In municipalities that have accepted alternative Clause 41C½, the legislative body may vote to adjust the following eligibility factors:

- Reduce the eligibility age to 65 years old.
- Increase the exemption amount by up to 20 percent of the average assessed valuation of residential property.
- Reduce the durational residency requirement to five years.

Economics

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

Income

\$48,741

Per capita income

about 25 percent higher than the amount in Berkshire County: \$39,952
about the same as the amount in Massachusetts: \$48,617

\$83,571

Median household income

about 1.3 times the amount in Berkshire County: \$63,159
a little less than the amount in Massachusetts: \$89,026

Household income



Show data / Embed

Poverty

12.5%

Persons below poverty line

about 25 percent higher than the rate in Berkshire County: 10.1%
about 25 percent higher than the rate in Massachusetts: 9.9%

Children (Under 18)



Show data / Embed

Seniors (65 and over)



Show data / Embed

Transportation to work

Means of transportation to work

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

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What are the median and average incomes in West Stockbridge?

The average annual household income in West Stockbridge is \$133,577, while the median household income sits at \$85,406 per year.

Average Household Income	\$133,577	Y-o-Y Change	7.3%
Median Household Income	\$85,406		10.2%
People below Poverty Level	97		-14.2%
People above Poverty Level	823		-28.0%



How many homeowners and renters are there in West Stockbridge?

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West Stockbridge, Massachusetts population age distribution

A complete breakdown of West Stockbridge town's age demographics from 0 to 85 years, distributed across 18 age groups is listed in the table below.

Age Group	Population	% of Total Population
Under 5 years	79	6.79%
5 to 9 years	43	3.69%
10 to 14 years	80	6.87%
15 to 19 years	54	4.64%
20 to 24 years	38	3.26%
25 to 29 years	23	1.98%
30 to 34 years	32	2.75%
35 to 39 years	43	3.69%
40 to 44 years	86	7.39%
45 to 49 years	97	8.33%
50 to 54 years	138	11.86%
55 to 59 years	128	11%
60 to 64 years	73	6.27%
65 to 69 years	125	10.74%
70 to 74 years	72	6.19%
75 to 79 years	25	2.15%
80 to 84 years	12	1.03%
85 years and over	16	1.37%

Source: <https://www.neilsberg.com/insights/west-stockbridge-ma-population-by-age/#pop-pyramid>

What is the aging population in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts?

West Stockbridge town's population aged 65 years and above was 250. As per the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, this population is 21.48% of the entire population.

What is the median income in West Stockbridge MA?

Median Income

In 2021, the median household income of West Stockbridge households was **\$83,571**

What are the median and average incomes in West Stockbridge?

[top](#)

The average annual household income in West Stockbridge is \$133,577, while the median household income sits at \$85,406 per year

Average Household Income	\$133,577	7.3%
Median Household Income	\$85,406	10.2%
People below Poverty Level	97	-14.2%
People above Poverty Level	823	-29.0%

Average Household Income \$133,577 7.3%
Median Household Income \$85,406 10.2%
People below Poverty Level 97 -14.2%
People above Poverty Level 823 -29.0%

<https://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/MA/The-Berkshires/West-Stockbridge-Demographics.html>

Median non-family income in West Stockbridge in 2021: West Stockbridge: \$34,663 State: \$52,250
Change in median non-family income between 2000 and 2021: West Stockbridge, Massachusetts: +48.9% State: +75.5%
Median per capita income in West Stockbridge in 2021: West Stockbridge: \$62,131 Massachusetts: \$49,746
Change in median per capita income between 2000 and 2021: West Stockbridge, Massachusetts: +97.7% State: +91.7%

Read more: <https://www.city-data.com/income/income-West-Stockbridge-Massachusetts.html>

Income and Salaries for West Stockbridge

- The average income of a West Stockbridge resident is \$37,105 a year. The US average is \$28,555 a year.
- The Median household income of a West Stockbridge resident is \$83,571 a year. The US average is \$69,021 a year.

https://www.bestplaces.net/economy/city/massachusetts/west_stockbridge

Ryan, Marie

From: Andy Potter <andy.potter@nara.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Ryan, Marie
Subject: Two items for the agenda

Discuss Short-term Rental Community Impact Fee

Also, Review the Current Rooms Tax Rate

Andy Potter
He/him/his
Residing and working on the ancestral lands of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans
Senior Electronic Records Policy Analyst
Office of the Chief Records Officer
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
andy.potter@nara.gov
413.236.3605 Office
413-429-5165 Cell

Perfection has to do with the end product, but excellence has to do with the process.



Dear Members of the WS Select Board,

December 14, 2023

We, the undersigned West Stockbridge residents and business owners are presenting this letter to you because we feel the decision made by the WS Select-board on Monday, December 4th 2023 to change the conditions for an Annual Entertainment License for TurnPark Sculpture Park was inappropriately and hurriedly decided upon while based on just one person's complaint and without adequate discussion or a fair opportunity for TurnPark to present their defense. Upon further review of the facts, we believe this ruling should be reversed.

We understand information can be presented by the WS Police Department, who were called the night of June 10th to monitor the sound levels at TurnPark that will verify that no sound ordinances were violated, and no citations were issued. The Foundry, which also had an event that night from 7-9PM, has a sound decibel level log and coinciding audio recorded on calibrated and certified professional equipment at their property line, available for review. These recordings (which are required by their Special Permit conditions) indicate no breach of their required decibel level restrictions. Furthermore, the event in question took place 10 times farther away than the Foundry is to the complainants' Commercial property with no other residential homes nearby. While we don't want the Zucchini Festival's permit altered, it is inconsistent that the Zucchini Festival is allowed to operate until 10PM while generating a much higher "decibel level" and takes place much nearer to the complainant's property than TurnPark.

TurnPark's existing License has been a key component for their annual entertainment and event planning. Their events draw residents from throughout the Berkshire's and beyond to our Business District helping other businesses in town and are often Fund-Raising events. The June 10 event donated a portion of the proceeds to aiding Ukraine.

Instead of adding layers of restrictions, we feel it is the Select Board's role to help the operating businesses in our downtown Business District to thrive and to encourage the cultural and economic activity that they provide to the town. June 10 was a particularly successful summer evening for the arts in our downtown district with three performance events occurring in three different locations which also included the West Stockbridge Historical Society. These events brought many people to our beautiful village to shop, eat and find community.

NAME:

ADDRESS or BUSINESS

Elizabeth Morse
Elizabeth Morse

3 Birch Hill Rd

Ronald Feldman
Ronald Feldman

3 Birch Rd

ERIC WILSHAK SHAKER MILL BOOKS

3 DEPOT ST

Sandy Hemphar

22 Main Street,

Jane Brubaker

9 Schumacher Lane

Melissa Green

7 Cone Hill Rd.

John Whalen

14 STATE LINE Rd

Robert Salvo

34 BIRCH HILL RD

Margaret Klagge

34 Birch Hill Rd.

NICK SPAIN

11 ALBANY RD.

MICHAEL BOLOGNINO

11 ALBANY RD.

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NAME:

DAN BLEHLER

Vicki Bonnington

David A. Schocker

Joe Hothaus

Sanchari Tuthais

Scott Jervas

Suzanne Greer/Sandstone Properties

Eric Shimmelonis

Rebecca Sheir

Shayna K. Tomlin

JOHN ELLING

Brenda ELLING

ADDRESS or BUSINESS

9 SILVERMINE LA. WS

245 Great Barrington Rd. WS

245 Great Barrington Rd. WS

2 Peaceable Hill WS

2 Peaceable Hill WS

99 West Center Rd

38 Main St. WS.

Rte 41 S. WS MA*

Rte 41 S. WS MA*

*EMAIL PERMISSION TO SIGN

11 Maple St W. Stock

269 Gt Barrington Rd*

" " " " *

*EMAIL PERMISSION TO SIGN

Dear Members of the WS Select Board,

December 14, 2023

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NAME:

ADDRESS or BUSINESS

Chris Kullen

197 GB Rd.

Steven Dixon Queensboro

26 Main St.

Peter To Difer Queensboro

26 Main St.

Eric Transinger Queensboro

26 Main St.

Quack Dixon Queensboro

26 Main St.

AMY Pressman West Stockbridge

99 GT. BARRINGTON RD.

LILY DAVENPORT

5 HOTEL ST, W.S.

Jimmi Dyer W. Stockbridge

5 Hotel St. W.S.

LISA LANDRY 4110 N.6 Depot

WS (email OK)

SPZTB

DANA FOX

24 SWAMP RD.

Peter Thorne

PETER THORNE

15 MAPLE ST.

SPZTB

SARAH THORNE

15 MAPLE ST

J - + Schmitt

JIM SCHMITT

15 SWAMP RD

Re: WSSB Decision to Curb TurnParks License

From: lisa sixdepot.com (lisa@sixdepot.com)

To: joel@artmobiles.com

Cc: sandra@artmobiles.com; larisa.grace.garrett@gmail.com

Date: Friday, December 15, 2023, 03:32 AM EST

Hi Joel and Sandra, I hope this finds you well. Firstly, thank you for doing this. I couldn't agree more. It is a commercial district and we should celebrate art, each other and communal activities. We would like to sign this but we are away until the 21st. Is there a way you can sign it for us and note that we asked you to do so?

Best, Flávio and Lisa
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2023, at 10:43 PM, Joel Hotchkiss <Joel@artmobiles.com> wrote:

Re: TurnPark License

From: eric shimelonis.com (eric@shimelonis.com)
To: webmaster@artmobiles.com
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023, 03:54 PM EST

Hi Joel,

Thanks for reaching out. This situation is unbelievable.

We are in Europe for another few days. Please feel free to sign my name and Rebecca Sheir too. We fully support this letter.

Best,

Eric

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2023, at 7:51 PM, webmaster@artmobiles.com wrote:

Hi Eric and Rebecca,

Hoping you can stop by today or Monday at our Gallery to sign the letter attached below. We would like to present it to the WSSB at Monday Meeting.

Best,

Joel

<WSSB FINAL .docx>

Compose

Back Forward Archive Move Delete Spam

19

Settings

joel@artmobili... 3%

joel@artmobili...

TurnPark License 2



Joel Hotchkiss



Brenda Elling

brendaelling@gmail.com

Joel Hotchkiss



brendaelling@gmail.co

m

brendaelling@gmail.com

Add to contacts

Inbox

Sent

Sent

Sent

Sent

Sent

Sent

Sent

Sent

Sent

Photos

Documents

Subscriptions

Replies

Deleted

Recall

Compose

More

Web Mail

Web Mail

Web Mail

Web Mail

Web Mail

Hi Joel

Please add my name and John's name to the petition going to the Select Board regarding TurnPark License. Thank you very much for adding our names we weren't able to make it up to the shop to sign in person.

Brenda Elling & John Elling
269 Gt Barrington Rd West Stockbridge

Sent from my iPad

<WSSB FINAL .docx>



Reply Reply All Forward



**TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE
2024 Annual Entertainment License**

License Fee 100.00

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140 §183A amended, Chapter 351 §85 of acts of 1981 and Chapter 140 §181, this license is hereby granted to:

Organization or Business Name:

TurnPark Art Space

D/B/A (if applicable):

TurnPark Art Space

Business or Organization Location:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Mailing Address (if different than above):

P.O. Box 194, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

to conduct the amusements as herein described:

Type(s) of Entertainment:

Performing Arts: Music, Theater, Film, Dance, Poetry and Open Mic.

Exact Location of Entertainment:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Day(s) of Entertainment:

Monday through Saturday

Times of Entertainment:

Mondays through Saturdays from 5 PM – 9 PM for amplified music and until 10 PM for non-amplification

Conditions: As per the required conditions established by the Select Board with the approval of the Special Permit conditions on September 2, 2021. (see attached)

Such LICENSE shall not be valid for any location/dates/times other than as herein described.

License granted by the SELECT BOARD
December 4, 2023

Expiration Date:

January 1, 2025

The Select Board reserves the right to modify or revoke this license if complaints are received by the Police Department regarding excessive noise.



**TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE
2023 Annual Entertainment License**

License Fee 100.00

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140 §183A amended,
Chapter 351 §85 of acts of 1981 and Chapter 140 §181, this license is hereby granted to:

Organization or Business Name:

TurnPark Art Space

D/B/A (if applicable):

TurnPark Art Space

Business or Organization Location:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Mailing Address (if different than above):

P.O. Box 194, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

to conduct the amusements as herein described:

Type(s) of Entertainment:

Performing Arts: Music, Theater, Film, Dance, Poetry and Open Mic.

Exact Location of Entertainment:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Day(s) of Entertainment:

Monday through Saturday

Times of Entertainment:

Mondays through Saturdays from 7 PM – 10 PM

Conditions: As per the required conditions established by the Select Board with the approval of the Special Permit conditions on September 2, 2021. (see attached)

Such LICENSE shall not be valid for any location/dates/times other than as herein described.

License granted by the SELECT BOARD
December 5, 2022

Expiration Date:

January 1, 2024

The Select Board reserves the right to modify or revoke this license if complaints are received by the Police Department regarding excessive noise.



**TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE
2022 Annual Entertainment License**

License Fee \$100.00

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140 §183A amended,
Chapter 351 §85 of acts of 1981 and Chapter 140 §181, this license is hereby granted to:

Organization or Business Name:

TurnPark Art Space

D/B/A (if applicable):

TurnPark Art Space

Business or Organization Location:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Mailing Address (if different than above): P.O. Box 194, West Stockbridge, MA 01266
to conduct the amusements as herein described:

Type(s) of Entertainment:

Performing Arts: Music, Theater, Film, Dance, Poetry and Open Mic.

Exact Location of Entertainment:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Day(s) of Entertainment:

Thursdays through Saturday

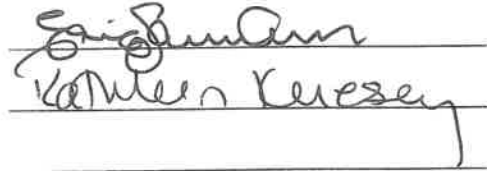
Times of Entertainment:

From 1 PM to 10 PM

Conditions (if required):

Such LICENSE shall not be valid for any location/dates/times other than as herein described.

License granted by the SELECT BOARD



Karen Keresey

Expiration Date:

January 1, 2023

The Select Board reserves the right to modify or revoke this license if
complaints are received by the Police Department regarding excessive noise.



**TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE
2021 One Day Entertainment License**

License Fee \$25.00

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140 §183A amended,
Chapter 351 §85 of acts of 1981 and Chapter 140 §181, this license is hereby granted to:

Organization or Business Name:

Jeff Palfini – Boondocks Film Society

D/B/A (if applicable):

Business or Organization Location:

269 West Cornwall Rd., West Cornwall, CT 06796

Mailing Address (if different than above):

to conduct the amusements as herein described:

Type(s) of Entertainment:

Performing Arts: Music and film

Exact Location of Entertainment:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Day(s) of Entertainment:

June 23, 2021

Times of Entertainment:

From 7:30 PM until 10:30 PM

Conditions (if required):

Such LICENSE shall not be valid for any location/dates/times other than as herein described.

License granted by the SELECT BOARD

Expiration Date:

June 24, 2021

Roger Kawough
Erin Jensen
Karmeen Kersey

The Select Board reserves the right to modify or revoke this license if
complaints are received by the Police Department regarding excessive noise.



TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE
2021 One Day Entertainment License
License Fee \$25.00

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140 §183A amended,
Chapter 351 §85 of acts of 1981 and Chapter 140 §181, this license is hereby granted to:

Organization or Business Name:

TurnPark Art Space

D/B/A (if applicable):

Business or Organization Location:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Mailing Address (if different than above):

to conduct the amusements as herein described:

Type(s) of Entertainment:

Performing Arts: Music.

Exact Location of Entertainment:

2 Moscow Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Day(s) of Entertainment:

June 19, 2021

Times of Entertainment:

From 2:00 PM until 10:30 PM

Conditions (if required):

Such LICENSE shall not be valid for any location/dates/times other than as herein described.

License granted by the SELECT BOARD

Expiration Date:

June 20, 2021

Roger Kwang
Eric Samson
Karen Keresey

The Select Board reserves the right to modify or revoke this license if
complaints are received by the Police Department regarding excessive noise.



TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE
One Day Entertainment License Application
\$25.00

The undersigned hereby applies for a license in accordance with the provisions of MA General Laws, Ch.140 Sec.183A amended, Ch.351, Sec.85 of Acts of 1981 and Ch.140 Sec.181.

Name: Tared Gelormino

Business/Organization: Turn Park Art Space

D/B/A (if applicable): _____

Address: 2 Moscow Rd W. Stockbridge, MA 01266

Mailing Address: PO Box 194

Phone Number: 727 520 3580

Email: gelorminoj@turnpark.com

TYPE: (Check all that apply) ☐ Concert ☐ Dance ☐ Exhibition ☐ Cabaret ☐ DJ
☐ Live band with up to ____ pieces, including singers ☒ Public Show

INCLUDES: ☐ Live music ☐ Recorded music ☐ Dancing by entertainers/ performers
☐ Dancing by patrons ☒ Amplification system ☐ Theatrical exhibition
☐ Floorshow ☐ Play ☐ Moving picture show ☐ Light show ☐ Jukebox

As part of the entertainment, will any person be permitted to appear on the premises in any manner or attire as to expose to public view any portion of the pubic area, anus, or genitals, or any simulation thereof, or whether any person will be permitted to appear on the premises in any manner or attire as to expose to public view a portion of the breast below the top of the areola, or any simulation thereof?
(M.G.L. Chp.140 Sec.183A)

___ YES

X NO

Exact Location of Entertainment (include sketch): Comedy performance
in our main building

Days of Entertainment*: 9/24/21
*Does not include SUNDAY

Start & End Times of Entertainment: 7-10 pm

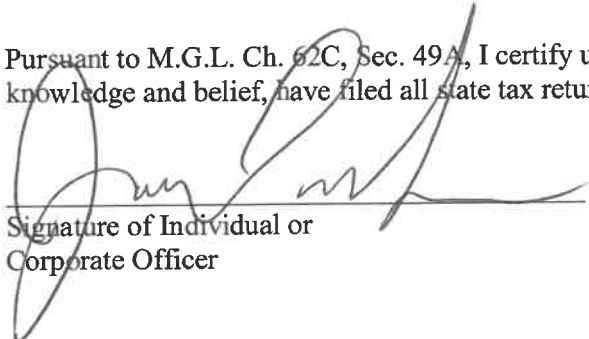
Does your event involve any of the following? (Check all that apply)

☒ Food ☐ Temporary Bathrooms ☐ Tents ☐ Stages ☒ Temporary Signs
☐ Electrical Permits ☐ Building Permits ☒ Police Traffic Details ☐ Street Closures
maybe depending on attendance

In the event of a change in type of entertainment or hours/days different than indicated above, a new application will be required and a new license will be issued.

Special Restrictions:

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 62C, Sec. 49A, I certify under the penalties of perjury that I, to my best knowledge and belief, have filed all state tax returns and paid all state taxes required under law.


Signature of Individual or
Corporate Officer

8/12/21
Date

APPROVAL DATE: Aug 23, 2021

LICENSE # _____

Marie J Ryan
Town Administrator
SB meeting